

only by his devotion to his amazing family. Mike and his lovely wife, Amy, are happily married and enjoy spending time with their family, especially their beloved nieces and nephews and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in commending Mr. Michael Sullivan as he is honored for his lifetime of service to the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association, its membership, and communities across the nation. Michael Sullivan is worthy of the highest praise for the tremendous contributions he has made to all of us. As my 95-year-old father, John Visclosky, would say, "He's a 100 percent guy."

HONORING THE VETERANS OF HOPE PROJECT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary work of Dr. Vincent Harding and the Veterans of Hope Project, VOHP, headquartered in Denver, Colorado. Founded in 1997 by long-time human-rights activists and educators Dr. Harding and the late Rosemarie Freney Harding, the Project encourages a healing-centered approach to community building, creativity and education regarding religion, culture, democracy, reconciliation and nonviolence.

The couple founded the Project on the Iliff School of Theology campus, where Dr. Harding was a decades-long faculty member. Borrowing from Dr. and Mrs. Harding's deep roots in the Southern Freedom Movement of the 1960s, the Veterans of Hope Project took shape as a spirit-centered social justice and humanitarianism campaign.

With the help of their daughter, Rachel, the Hardings honed the Project as an education resource for spiritual, intergenerational community building and compassionate leadership development. One example of their multi-faceted work is a series of professionally filmed interviews with over 70 pioneering activists from around the world, including Grace Lee Boggs, Staughton and Alice Lynd, Charles Long, Bernice Johnson Reagon, Tom Feelings, Katherine Dunham, Imam Warith Deen Muhammad, Dolores Huerta, Vine Deloria, Corky Gonzales, Andrew Young, Dorothy Cotton, Bishop Samuel Ruiz, Gwendolyn Zoharah Simmons and others.

Currently, the Project is creating a "Network of Hope" that engages youth and elders to demonstrate and develop compassionate leadership skills. With the help of Executive Director Gloria Smith, staff, volunteers and Dr. Harding's guiding and inspirational vision, the Veterans of Hope Project is preparing a compassionate leadership force for the 21st century. VOHP's effective programming includes an "Ambassadors of Hope" program that utilizes creative mentorship opportunities between elders and youth, workshops and training in compassionate leadership development, and a public symposium series.

Moreover, as Dr. Vincent Harding celebrates his 80th birthday, I would like to personally thank him for his continued work to build community bridges across national, racial, ethnic, religious, class and gender lines. His ever-ex-

panding network of friends, colleagues and collaborators, including Education for Liberation, The Black Star Project and the Tewa Women's Project, speak of the breadth of his recent travels and the vast extent of his altruism.

Therefore, I salute Dr. Vincent Harding and the Veterans of Hope Project as they continue to tell the stories of faith, peace and justice that communities around the world must recognize, promote and impart. Thank you, once again, for all that you do to educate and encourage a new generation of compassionate leaders. I wish you all the best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF THOMAS "TOM" CLARK

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Tom Clark of Bakersfield, California, who passed away on July 23, 2011 at the age of 65. Tom was a great champion for the people of Kern County, California and a respected voice in the development of water policies. Most importantly, Tom will be remembered for being a loving family man and loyal friend.

A second generation Californian, Tom was born on October 21, 1945 in Bakersfield, California. He graduated from North High School in 1963. Three years later, he married his wife Karen and they were blessed with two children, Krista and Jeff. Tom joined the United States Army where he served our Nation at Fort Irwin, California and received an honorable discharge in 1970 with a rank of Sergeant E-5.

A loyal son of the Central Valley, Tom attended Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield. Tom decided to further expand his horizons and attended the University of Pittsburgh on a full scholarship, where he earned a Master of Science in Water Supply—Water Pollution Control in 1974.

Tom began his water career in 1974 with the Kern County Water Agency as a Water Resources Planner where he was responsible for contract administration and planning. His tenacity and passion led him to do work for Nickel Enterprises and La Hacienda, Inc., where he helped establish the Rio Bravo hydroelectric plant on the Kern River. In 1986, Tom returned to the Kern County Water Agency and served as Assistant Manager. In 1989, he was promoted to Assistant General Manager, and in 1990, he was named General Manager.

Tom's legacy will live on through a series of groundbreaking water deals that he helped broker. Before Tom stepped in as General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency, Kern County had perhaps the most unreliable water supply in the State. Through his hard work, Tom was able to secure a much more stable supply for the people of Kern County.

In an industry where tensions run high, Tom's character was able to shine. He was well-liked by his colleagues—even the ones who did not agree with him. Tom was a pillar in the community and could be relied on to

provide leadership and creative management skills to find solutions to some of the Valley's most pressing problems. Of note was the way in which he handled disputes over the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta. He was consistently an advocate for the Central Valley, while being able to understand and respect other points of view.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Thomas "Tom" Clark, a man with passion and persistence who accomplished great things for the people of California. He enriched the lives of all those who knew him and will forever be remembered.

RANDY CAMMACK, 2011 LABOR LEADER OF THE YEAR

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to proclaim that organized labor is often the sole source fighting for the rights of not just union members, but all workers.

Today, we are recognizing a great leader of working men and women in Randy Cammack. Randy currently serves as the Vice President at Large of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Executive Board President Joint Council 42, and the Secretary-Treasurer of Teamsters Local 63.

Randy Cammack began his Teamster career in Los Angeles, California as a UPS truck driver in 1967. He has logged over 31 years as either a business agent or officer with the Teamsters International. As the Vice President at Large of the Teamsters International, he represents over 1.4 million workers; and as President of the California State Federation of Labor, he is the voice for over one million workers.

Randy has served on several collective bargaining teams at the local, state and national levels. He is frequently brought in to help solve many complex, tough grievances and wage negotiations sessions. It is basically in this area of his vast experience that he has earned numerous local, state, and national recognitions.

Among the many awards he has received are the Hispanic Community Service Man of the Year Award, twice won the Community Service Man of the Year Award, 2011 Inaugural Labor Award and the 2011 Gladys Mason Labor Award for Patriotic Leadership presented to him by my colleague, Congresswoman LORETTA SANCHEZ.

It gives me great honor to join with the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council in honoring Randy Cammack as the 2011 Labor Leader of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SPC. DENNIS JAMES, JR.

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 a Central Florida Soldier lost his life in service to our nation from wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked his unit

with an I.E.D. in Wardak Province while assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division out of Ft. Polk, LA.

Specialist James joined the U.S. Army in June of 2008. Upon completion of his training in November of 2009, Specialist James reported to Ft. Polk, LA. where he deployed with his unit in October 2010 to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Specialist James's impressive list of awards and decorations include the Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Medal and the Combat Action Badge.

Specialist James was a former student at Pine Ridge High School in Deltona where he was an accomplished athlete in Football, Basketball and Track. James was known as a good student who was well liked by those who knew him.

We shall never forget the ultimate sacrifice Specialist James has given for his country. His actions will serve as an everlasting reminder of the dedication and sacrifice the members of our nation's armed services make every day.

Specialist James is survived by his Aunt and Uncle.

HONORING COACH MEL TJEERDSMA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize the outstanding achievements of Northwest Missouri State University Football Coach Mel Tjeerdsma. Coach Tjeerdsma is one of the most successful and well respected coaches in the history of collegiate football, coaching Bearcat Football for 17 seasons. I join with the rest of the Bearcat Nation in congratulating Coach Tjeerdsma on his many years of success, contributions to the community and retirement.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tjeerdsma orchestrated arguably the greatest football program transformations in the history of collegiate athletics. In his first season, Coach Tjeerdsma went from 0–11 in 1994 to 183–32 with three national championships and 12 conference championships. He coached 44 All-Americans, 119 All-MIAA student athletes, and 14 National Football League players. Coach Tjeerdsma's leadership and mentoring has made a difference in the lives of his student-athletes. Coach Tjeerdsma was recently recognized and inducted into the NCAA Division II Football Hall of Fame and the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Tjeerdsma is not only the Bearcat football program's all-time winningest coach, but his focus on the classroom is second to none for his student-athletes. Coach Tjeerdsma's teams have featured seven academic All-Americans and one National Scholar Athlete of the Year. Coach Tjeerdsma's football graduation rate is far above the national average of 53 percent with an impressive 85 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and the rest of the Bearcat Family in applauding

Coach Mel Tjeerdsma's outstanding achievements and contributions to the community and to the sport. We wish Coach Tjeerdsma and Carol the very best in years to come.

TRIBUTE TO COL. CHARLES P. MURRAY, JR., AMERICAN HERO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on August 12, 2011, one of the most outstanding patriots of America's Greatest Generation passed away. The beloved Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient of World War II who also served in Korea and Vietnam died peacefully at home in Columbia, South Carolina.

Colonel Chuck Murray was recognized by a thoughtful article on August 18, 2011, by Jeff Wilkinson of The State (August 18, 2011) newspaper of Columbia.

COL. CHARLES P. MURRAY REMEMBERED

(By Jeff Wilkinson)

Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., a Medal of Honor recipient from World War II, was remembered Wednesday in Columbia as a humble hero who protected his men in battle, loved his family and worked tirelessly, until his death at age 89, to promote veterans' issues and educate students about patriotism and service to country.

"The word hero has never been about football players and movie stars," retired Col. Kevin Shwedo, a past deputy commander of Fort Jackson, said in a eulogy. "He defines what a hero is."

After being drafted in 1942, Murray, who grew up in Wilmington, N.C., landed on Omaha Beach in 1944 after D-Day and joined the 3rd Infantry Division in France.

On Dec. 16 near Kayserberg, France, the platoon that Murray was leading was pinned down on a ridge under heavy fire by 200 well-entrenched Germans. Murray, using a variety of weapons, killed 20 enemy soldiers and captured 10 more, single-handedly driving the Germans from the position. At the end of his assault, a German grenade riddled him with shrapnel, wounding him in eight places. He spent only four days recovering at a medical aid station before "borrowing" a uniform and returning to his unit.

None of the other men in his platoon was injured.

"His focus was keeping his men safe," Shwedo said. "And he kept his men safe."

Murray, awarded the Medal of Honor for that action, also received three Silver Stars and two Bronze Stars for other acts of valor.

Murray's flag-draped coffin was carried by horse-drawn caisson from Dunbar Funeral Home to the First Presbyterian Church, a few blocks away. It was accompanied by pallbearers from the Arlington Cemetery's "Old Guard," the Army's oldest active-duty infantry unit. Murray once was deputy commander of the unit, best known, perhaps, for maintaining a 24-hour-a-day vigil at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers included four Medal of Honor recipients—Sgt. John F. Baker Jr. of Columbia, Maj. Gen. James E. Livingston of Charleston, Sgt. Maj. Robert M. Patterson of Raleigh, N.C., and Col. Walter J. "Joe" Marm of Fremont, N.C.—as well as members of Murray's VFW Post 641. Also participating were a color guard and about 40 members of the 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., Murray's unit in World War II.

Murray died of congestive heart failure Friday, six weeks after having a pacemaker implanted. He passed away in his bed while taking a nap, family members said.

Murray is survived by his wife, Anne, son Brian of Fort Payne, Ala., and daughter Cynthia Anne of Roswell, Ga. Another son, Charles P. Murray III, of Columbia passed away in 2004.

About 600 people attended the memorial service.

More stood quietly outside on the sidewalk throughout the service to see Murray's remains pass by on the way to and from the church. "I wanted to pay my respects," said Dick Rosenbeck of Columbia, a four-year veteran of the U. S. Air Force.

Inside, dignitaries included Fort Jackson commander Maj. Gen. James Milano, U.S. Rep. Joe Wilson of Springdale and Col. Ted Bell of Columbia, one of The Citadel's most decorated graduates from World War II.

Bell was on the faculty of the Infantry School at Fort Benning, Ga., after the war with Murray, a close friend.

"I thought he would be a big ol' dumb fella coming in there with all his exploits, but he had a brilliant mind," said Bell, 91, who received the Distinguished Service Cross and Silver Star while fighting in the Pacific. "He was a fine person. A fine family man. And he was one of the greatest heroes we've ever known. There is no question about it."

The Service of Worship for the Remembrance of and Thanksgiving for the Life of Col. Charles P. Murray, Jr., September 26, 1921–August 12, 2011, on August 17, 2011, was conducted at the historic First Presbyterian Church (Associate Reformed Presbyterian Denomination) established in 1795. This was the boyhood church of President Woodrow Wilson and his parents Reverend and Mrs. Joseph R. Wilson are buried in the Churchyard with Ann Pamela Cunningham who, in 1853, founded the Mount Vernon Ladies Association which purchased and preserved Mount Vernon.

The following biography and citation were published in the program:

CHARLES P. MURRAY, JR.

Charles P. Murray, Jr., entered the Army from Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1942, attended Infantry OCS and was commissioned 2d. Lt. in 1943. He served during WWII in France, Germany and Austria with 3d Infantry Division. His final combat assignment was as a brigade commander in Vietnam, where he served with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and 9th Infantry Division. His awards include the Medal of Honor, the Silver Star (3 OLC), Legion of Merit (3 OLC), Bronze Star (OLC), Air Medal (6 OLC), Purple Heart, French Legion of Honor and Croix de Guerre, and various Republic of Vietnam commendation and service medals. He attended National War College and has degrees from University of North Carolina and George Washington University.

CITATION FOR THE MEDAL OF HONOR

For commanding Company C, 30th Infantry, displaying supreme courage and heroic initiative near Kayserberg, France, on 16 December 1944, while leading a reinforced platoon into enemy territory. Descending into a valley beneath hilltop positions held by our troops, he observed a force of 200 Germans pouring deadly mortar, bazooka, machinegun, and small arms fire into an American battalion occupying the crest of the ridge. The enemy's position in a sunken road, though hidden from the ridge, was open to a flank attack by 1st Lt. Murray's patrol but he hesitated to commit so small a force to battle with the superior and strongly disposed enemy. Crawling out ahead of his troops to a vantage point, he called by radio for artillery fire. His shells bracketed the